Decline in foreign exchange reserve

†2139 SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign exchange reserve is declining rapidly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the likely effects of this decline on the economic scenario of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No Sir. India's foreign exchange reserves, which stood at US $ 113 billion as at end-March 2004, increased to US $ 119.5 billion by end-June 2004 on account of substantial foreign exchange inflows. The foreign exchange reserves were estimated at US $ 119.3 billion on August 6, 2004. During the period April 1, 2004 to August 6, 2004, India's foreign exchange reserves increased by US $ 6 3 billion

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Externally aided projects for Tripura

2140 SHRI MATILAL SARKAR Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many externally-aided projects are there in different States as sanctioned during 2001-02 to 2003-04, State-wise,

(b) how many of them relate to the North-Eastern States;

(c) whether it is a fact that not a single EAP has been sanctioned for Tripura, and

(d) the proposals received from Government of Tripura and the action taken on the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) the number of externally aided projects in different States as sactioned during 2001-02 to 2003-04 is furnished in Statement I (*see* below)

(b) Six projects relate to the North-Eastern States

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) and (d) No externally aided project was sanctioned for Tripura during the period from 2001-02 to 2003-04. The status of the proposals received from the Government of Tripura is furnished in the Statement II

Statement-I

State-wise number of externally-aided projects

Sl No	States/UTs	2001-02 to 2003-04
1	Andhra Pradesh	12
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3	Assam	2
4	Bihar	0
5	Chhattisgarh	4
6	Delhi	3
7	Goa	0
8	Gujarat	6
9	Haryana	1
10	Himachal Pradesh	1
11	Jammu & Kashmir	0
12	Jharkhand	1
13	Karnataka	7
14	Kerala	2
15	Madhya Pradesh	9
16	Maharashtra	3
17	Manipur	1
18	Meghalaya	2
19	Mizoram	1
20	Nagaland	0
21	Orissa	9
22	Punjab	1
23	Rajasthan	4
24	Tamil Nadu	1
25	Tripura	0

Sl No	States/UTs	2001-02 to 2003-04
26	Uttar Pradesh	2
27	Uttaranchal	3
28	West Bengal	10
29	Multi-state	3
	TOTAL	88

Statement-II

Status of project proposals received from Government of Tripura

1. Strengthening of Health Care System in Tripura: The project proposal was posed to Germany, but was not accepted

2. Project for Sustainable Production of Food Through Agriculture, Horticulture and Fisheries in Tripura: The project proposal was posed to Germany, but was not accepted

3 Animal Resource Development in Tripura: The project proposal was posed to Germany, but was not accepted

4 Electrification of Remote Areas of Tripura through Renewable Source of Energy: The project proposal was posed to Germany, but was not accepted

5 Settlement and Expansion of Sustainable Livelihood Choices of Tribal Shifting Cultivators of Tripura The project proposal was posed to Germany, but was not accepted

6. Integrated Forest Development Project The project proposal was posed to Germany, but was not accepted

7 Institutional, Scientific and Technological Interventions under Forest Sector in Tripura The project proposal was posed to Germany, but was not accepted

8. A multi-sectoral GIS for Tripura using airborne digital sensors for large scale mapping: The project proposal was posed to Germany, but was not accepted

9. Socio Economic Empowerment/Protection of Natural Resources in Tripura: Germany have committed an amount of Euro 15 million for the project in July 2004

10 A letter from Government of Tripura endorsed to Department of Economic Affairs and addressed to Ministry of Water Resources was received seeking Japanese assistance without the name of the project Comments of the Ministry of Water Resources have been sought

11 A letter from Government of Tripura addressed to Ministry of Human Resource Development and endorsed to Department of Economic Affairs was received regarding proposal for development of 100 High and Higher Secondary schools without the project proposal. Comments of the Ministry of Human Resource Development have been sought.

12 A letter from Government of Tripura addressed to Ministry of Human Resource Development and endorsed to Department of Economic Affairs was received regarding proposal for development of Shishu Bihar Higher Secondary English medium school in the state headquarters in order to convert it as the school of excellence, without the project proposal Comments of the Ministry of Human Resource Development have been sought

13 A letter from Government of Tripura addressed to Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying and endorsed to Department of Economic Affairs was received regarding Fresh Water Prawn Farming & Establishment of Ornamental Fish Breeding Farm without the project proposal. The proposal and comments of Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying have been sought.

14. A letter from Government of Tripura addressed to Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying and endorsed to Department of Economic Affairs was received regarding Development of Acquaculture practices without the project proposal The proposal and comments of Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying have been sought

15 Infrastructure Development Programme in Tripura/Roads and Bridges The total cost of the project is Rs 1138 24 crore, which was too high to be considered under Japanese Grafit Aid Programme

16 Tripura Irrigation Schemes and Flood Management Works Project The World Bank has declined to take up the project

17. Proposal for Development of an Information Technology Center in Tripura: The World Bank has indicated that the proposal does not have a holistic and structured approach

18. Tripura Agricultural Development Project: The project has been posed to the World Bank.

19. Integrated Forestry Development in Tripura: The World Bank has informed that the project was not in their landing pipeline

20. Tripura Gas Based Combined Cycle Power Project: The project proposal was posed to Japan, but was not selected by the Government of Japan for financing

Credit Deposit Ratio of RRBS

2141. SHRI C RAMACHANDRAIAH. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state'

(a) whether it is a fact that Credit Deposit Ratio of Regional Rural Banks has been continuously declining over the years;

(b) if so, what measures Government have taken or propose to take to increase the Credit Deposit Ratio of RRBs;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Investment Deposit Ratio of RRBs is higher as compared to their Credit Deposit Ratio; and

(d) if so, what measures Government propose to take to decrease the Investment Deposit Ratio and bring it to the minimum possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) (a) to (d) The Credit Deposit (CD) Ratio of RRBs has increased from 41 96% in 1998-99 to 46.27% in 2003-2004. The Investment Deposit (ID) Ratio has declined from 71 25% during 1999-2000 to 60 04% during 2003-04 Various measures have been taken by the Government to encourage the RRBs to provide more Credit instead of Investment These measure include

1 Fixing higher target for lending to priority sector *i e.* 60% of their outstanding advances.

2. Permitting RRBs to finance education loan, rural housing loan etc.

3 Holding the sponsor banks squarely responsible for the performance and lending of their RRBs